



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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USDA TO STUDY CORN PRODUCTION PRACTICES

DENVER, COLORADO – With near-record-breaking corn acreage in the ground, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will soon begin contacting corn producers to learn about their production practices during the 2010 growing season. As part of the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS), USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will gather data on farmers' chemical use, pest management and irrigation practices for corn.

"Conducted every fall, ARMS serves as the primary source of information on the production practices, resource use and economic well-being of America's farm operations and farm households," said Bill Meyer, director of the NASS Colorado Field Office. "The survey results help agricultural leaders and decision-makers better understand how producers cope with risk, adapt to policy changes, and make decisions about chemical use, new technologies and many other aspects of farming."

This year, ARMS will focus on corn, including both conventional and organic varieties. This will be the first time since 2005 that ARMS has focused on corn production and the first time ever that it has looked at organic corn production.

Beginning in October, NASS representatives will conduct face-to-face interviews with nearly 7,500 corn growers nationwide, including 100 in Colorado.

"When contacted, producers will be asked to provide information on their fertilizer, nutrient, biocontrol and pesticide applications, as well as their pest management and irrigation practices," added Meyer. "Early next year, we will follow up with some of the participants to obtain additional economic data."

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes data only in aggregate form, ensuring that no individual operation or grower can be identified.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, visit www.nass.usda.gov, or call the NASS Colorado Field Office at 1-800-392-3202.

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